

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now present in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has noted a typographical error in claim 1. This has now been corrected. Withdrawal of this objection to claim 1 is requested.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Letters, US Patent 2,891,138 in view of Sikka et al, US Patent 6,667,111. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the present invention, the method comprises the steps of disposing metallic filler between two golf club head members and using a heating source of infrared rays to melt the metallic filler. Dependent claim 12 goes onto recite that the heating source is prepared by focusing the infrared rays such that the focused infrared rays rapidly melt the metallic filler.

The patent to Letters discloses a method of and apparatus for bonding the head of a golf club to the shaft thereof. This patent teaches rapid infrared heating of a surface for heat treatment of materials. It is important to note that this patent fails to teach infrared heating for melting metallic fillers. With regard to dependent claim 12 of the application, the Letters patent fails to teach a focused infrared ray. Instead, this patent only teaches a unidirectional IR system for heat treatment.

With regard to the Sikka et al patent, there is no reasonable expectation of success for modifying the joining method of Letters with this patent. The Sikka patent fails to teach an infrared heating method for joining metallic parts.

One of ordinary skill in the art could not possibly, in the absence of hindsight, have conceived of using the joining method of Letters with the infrared heating method of Sikka to achieve such a joining method as is claimed in the present application. Neither Letters or Sikka teach or suggest the heating source prepared by focusing the infrared rays as recited in the claims of the present application. As such, it is requested that the 35 USC 103 rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Because this Amendment only changes an typographical error noted by the Examiner, no new issues should be raised. Thus, this Amendment should be entered for the purposes of Appeal. Nonetheless, it is not expected that an Appeal will be necessary since this application should now be in condition for allowance.

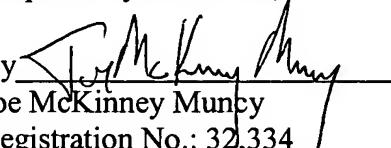
In view of the above amendment, this application should be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant